

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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TAGS: PFOR, US, CG

SUBJECT: MOBUTU LUNCH WITH US BUSINESS EXECUTIVES

1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU WAS GUEST OF HONOR OCTOBER 3 AT LUNCH HOSTED BY FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK CHAIRMAN WRISTON. MOST OF US GUESTS WERE TOP EXECUTIVES OF CORPORATIONS WITH ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL INTEREST IN ZAIRE. USG OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM, AMB. VANCE AND AF/C DIRECTOR COHEN. HIGHLIGHT OF LUNCHEON WAS SHORT STATEMENT BY MOBUTU ON ZAIRE'S POLICY TOWARD THE PRIVATE SECTOR. SUMMARY FOLLOWS:

2. MOBUTU SAID ZAIRE ECONOMIC POLICY IS REFLECTION OF ZAIRE'S OWN CONDITIONS AND CANNOT RESEMBLE EITHER WESTERN FREE ENTERPRISE OR SOCIALIST COLLECTIVISM. IT IS A MIXED ECONOMY.

3. WITH RESPECT TO PRIVATE SECTOR, MOBUTU SAID HE WISHED
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TO REEMPHASIZE STATEMENT HE MADE IN EXACT SAME SETTING IN

1970. ZAIRE WILL NOT NATIONALIZE. ZAIRE WILL NOT TAKE THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OF OTHERS. ZAIRE HAS BEEN AMPLY ENDOWED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES AND THEREFORE DOES NOT HAVE TO TAKE OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY. FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS NEEDED TO HELP UTILIZE ZAIRE'S RESOURCES FOR THE GOOD OF ZAIRE AND THE INVESTORS. IF GOZ DISAGREES WITH A FOREIGN

INVESTOR'S POLICIES, GOZ WILL FRANKLY TELL THAT INVESTOR WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE. IF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED, THE FOREIGN INVESTOR MAY HAVE TO STOP OPERATING IN ZAIRE; BUT GOZ HAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF NATIONALIZING OR SEIZING PRIVATE PROPERTY.

4. MOBUTU SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF FOREIGN COMPANIES QUESTIONED HIS SINCERITY. IS HE MERELY SAYING SUCH THINGS ABROAD WHILE SAYING JUST THE OPPOSITE AT HOME? MOBUTU ASSURED EVERYONE THAT HE SAYS THE SAME THING TO HIS OWN CITIZENS ON THE QUESTION OF NATIONALIZATION WHEN HE MAKES PUBLIC SPEECHES IN ZAIRE (NOTE: KINSHASA A-168 REPORTING ON MOBUTU'S SPEECH AFTER THE ALGIERS NONALIGNED CONFERENCE CONFIRMS THIS. SPEECH WAS IN NATIVE LINGALA AND INTENDED PURELY FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION.)

5. AS HE DID IN 1970, MOBUTU AGAIN REFERRED TO UNION MINIERE NATIONALIZATION AS A SPECIAL EXCEPTION WHICH WILL NOT BE REPEATED. UNION MINIERE, HE SAID, WAS TRYING TO CONTROL POLITICAL POWER WHICH PUT THAT COMPANY IN SPECIAL CATEGORY. IN ANY EVENT, UNION MINIERE STILL PRESENT IN ZAIRE AND COOPERATING IN COPPER INDUSTRY TO MUTUAL ADVANTAGE OF BOTH SIDES. RUSH

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